

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~A cover (24) for a welding wire container (10,12) is shown, having an upper surface (26) provided with a slot (32)~~ First and second welding wire containers are arranged adjacent one another. Each container is provided with a cover having a slot through which the welding wire [(16)] can be withdrawn from the respective container. A spacer over the top of the slot divides the slot into, and having spacing means (34) which define an inner portion [(36)] and an outer portion (38) of the slot such that welding wire extending through the inner portion of the slot is held spaced from welding wire extending through the outer portion of the slot.

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